

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. With few exceptions Albanian Communists are very patriotic. Members of the Communist Party who were imprisoned because of various criminal offenses generally remained convinced Communists. They considered Albania a backward country but nevertheless believed that it was a paradise compared to the USSR. It appears that Albanians who had lived for a prolonged time in the USSR had lost all confidence in the moral and economic strength of the Soviets. Nobody in the country has any trust in the goods imported from the USSR. This applies above all to Soviet medicines. On the other hand, goods of [redacted] origin are highly valued and bring high prices on the black market. 25X1
2. The USSR has lost all prestige in Albania. Soviet representatives in Albania who probably have been carefully screened by the MVD make feels of themselves by their behavior and the Albanians openly poke fun at them. In 1953, Soviet actors who gave a performance at Shkoder were heckled. This shows that the order to love the USSR has so far had a rather negative success. The people strongly resented the fact that young Albanian women and girls were forced to attend social functions given by Soviet sailors on board Soviet warships visiting Durres in 1954. 25X1
3. The sympathy shown by Albanians [redacted] is almost blind. The average Albanian considers [redacted] as a sort of superman for whom nothing is impossible. Many Albanians hope that their country will one day be liberated [redacted]. Even Albanian Communists openly voice their sympathy [redacted]. 25X1

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4. Non-Communist circles in Albania are convinced that the Communist regime is not going to stay in the country. Communists who have not yet become too compromised by their dealings with the Party have since early 1954 tried to make contacts with Albanians who they believe are going to play a leading role in the future.
5. Since 1954, there have been indications of a widening rift within the Albanian Communist Party. One group would like to detach the Party from the dominating influence of the USSR as has been done in Yugoslavia. The members of this group favor the establishment of an independent Communist Party and the resumption of economic and cultural relations with all countries. The other group which is headed by Mehmet Shehu is loyal to the Soviets.
6. The 11 years of the red regime have had their effect on the youth of the country. The results of Communist education became visible about three years ago. Young people very often show a surprising amount of knowledge in the field of politics and religion. It is believed that about 60% of Albanian youth sympathize with Communism. Women and girls who have lived a life of seclusion for centuries consider Communism their liberator.
7. The morals of the youth have sunk to a marked degree. This state has been brought about by the activities of the schools and of the Party. The authority of parents and of the church has been systematically undermined. The enthusiasm of Albanian youth for Communism is usually dampened when they are inducted or when they get a job. There is no unemployment in the country and good wages are paid. The accumulation of money is, however, viewed with suspicion by the Communist Party. Typical of the situation is a statement made by an 18-year-old Albanian. He said: "I don't know what to do. Those who don't like to work are branded saboteurs and thrown into prison. On the other hand, people who are successful and diligent in their work and make some money are branded as kulaks and are thrown into prison sooner or later."
8. Albanians generally recognize that the Albanian Communists have worked hard and have succeeded in raising the living standard in the country to a degree unknown before. In this respect, many people refer to the large number of newly established railroad lines, factories, power stations, schools and hospitals.

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